



Finland – National embedment

1. RI definition	
In which points does the National Roadmap deviate from the ESFRI Roadmap?	
Categories	National Roadmap
Funding	x
Categorisation of RI	x
Access to RI	
Organisation within national procedure	x
<p>Research Infrastructures form a reserve of research facilities, equipment, materials and services. As such, they enable research and development at various stages of innovation, while supporting organised research, researcher training and teaching. They also support and develop research and innovation capacity. RI consist of equipment, knowledge networks, databases, multidisciplinary research centers, research stations, collections, libraries and the related user services, where these are fundamental to research. In general, major RI are international and open to collaborative use, providing cooperation possibilities to researchers both abroad and in Finland. RI can be centralised, that is, based in a single location. They can also be distributed or virtual, and can form mutually complementary entities and networks. (The Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee, 2014, p. 3)</p> <p>Research infrastructures form a reserve of research facilities, equipment, materials and services. As such, they enable research and development at various stages of innovation, while supporting organised research, researcher training and teaching. They also support and develop research and innovation capacity (InRoad Consultation).</p>	



2. RI players in the national R&I system

The RI players within the R&I system are displayed in figure 6.

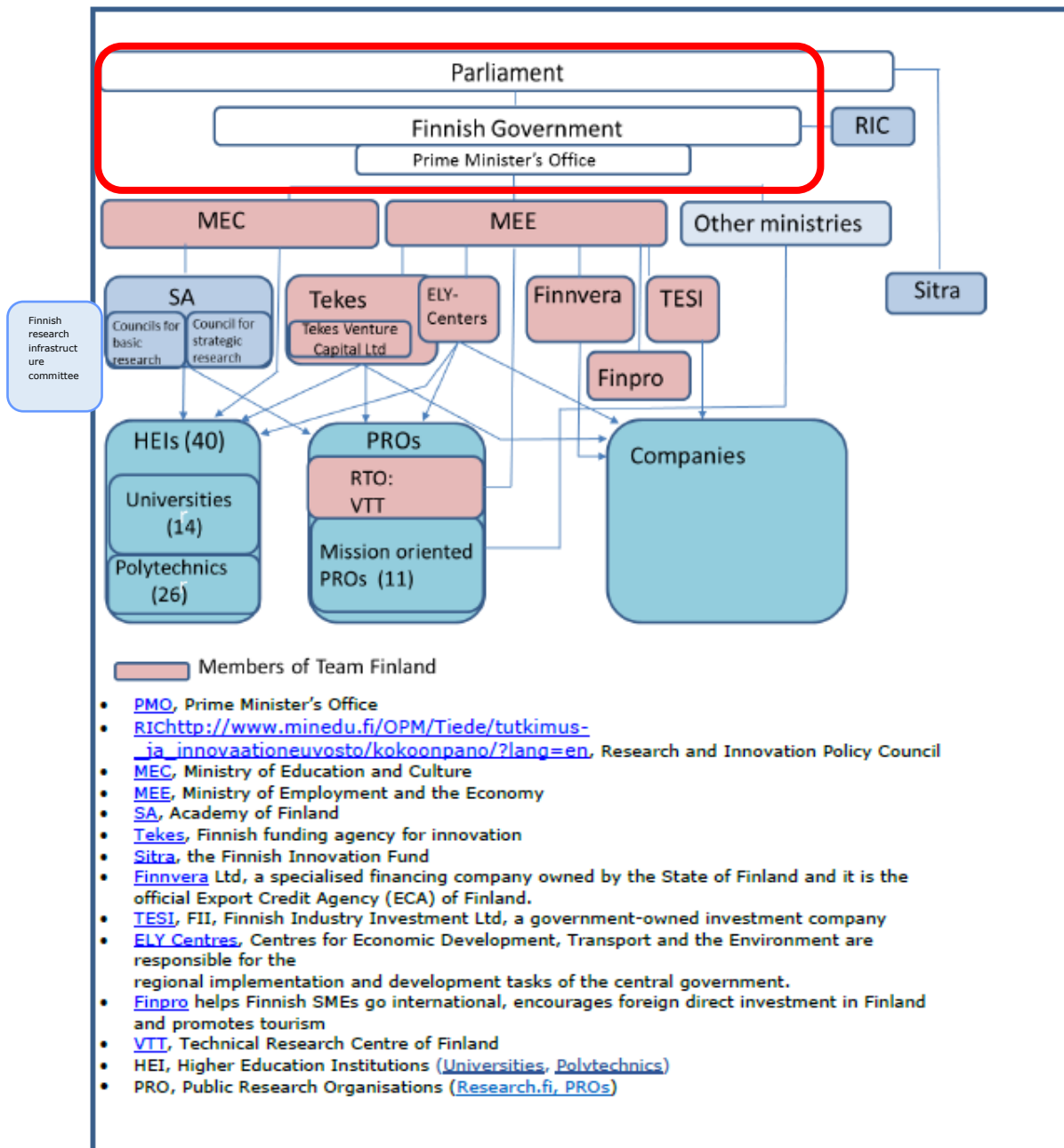


Figure 6: Organisational chart of the R&I system of Finland (Halme et al., 2016, p. 17). Red colour indicates the bodies with the main decision power regarding RI.

National relevance of RI

According to the Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee frontier research requires state-of-the-art infrastructures. At their best, RI are dynamic and open physical or virtual research community structures that cross disciplinary boundaries. They attract international top-flight researchers; provide training and teaching, and enable innovations in partnership with entrepreneurs, companies and industry. A sound research infrastructure ecosystem includes local, national and international research infrastructures of various size categories, complementing and supporting one another. (The Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee, 2014, p. 10)



Embedding of RI in the national R&I system

Finland's Research Infrastructure Committee is a national decision-making body for RI and is located within the Academy of Finland (Halme et al.,2016, p. 21.).

3. RI in the National R&I System

The Finnish governance system is comparably centralized in terms of national guidelines, strategies and funding. Yet a mix of national and local administration allows regions to have a relatively high degree of autonomy in the design and implementation of regional policies. Regions' role is especially focused on allocating structural funds.

The Finnish R&I System is divided into four operational levels:

The Parliament of Finland and the Finnish government rule the highest level. In matters related to research, technology and innovation policy, the latter is supported by a high-level advisory body, the Research and Innovation Policy Council (RIC). The second level consists of the ministries, of which the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy (MEE) play the main role in research and innovation policy. On the third level of the Finnish Innovation system, there are the competitive R&I funding and the R&D funding agencies. The fourth level is comprised of organizations that conduct research. (Halme et al. 2016, p. 19)

4. Major national strategies for international cooperation in R&I and strategic integration of RI

The Academy of Finland's strategy, revised and adopted in 2015, draws attention to the quality, impact and renewal of science and research. The strategy also emphasises the importance of international engagement for high-quality science and research.

References

- Halme, K., V.-P. Saarnivaara and J. Mitchell (2016) RIO COUNTRY REPORT 2015: Finland. <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC101190/fi_cr2015.pdf> [Last access: 06/2017].
- The Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee (2014) Finland's Strategy and Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2014–2020. <http://www.aka.fi/globalassets/awanhat/documents/firi/tutkimusinfrastruktuurien_strategia_ja_tiekartta_2014_en.pdf> [Last access: 06/2017].

Further links

- Quality, impact and renewal in international cooperation: Academy of Finland international policy for 2017–2021 <<http://www.aka.fi/globalassets/40akatemia/academy-of-finland-international-policy-23-feb-2017-valmis.pdf>> [Last access: 06/2017].

